

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A code reader to read a code from a data recording medium which records data as an optically readable code and is provided with a non-interference area around said code to prevent presence of only an interference image having an attribute causing an error during reading of said code, said code reader comprising:

10 an image pickup section to pick up said code; a guide section configured to specify positional relationship between said image pickup section and said code;

15 a code detection section to set a code detection area in an image pickup screen obtained in said image pickup section and detect at least part of said code from the inside thereof; and

20 a restoration section to specify said code from said image pickup screen based on a detection position of at least part of said code detected in said code detection section and restore data recorded in said code, wherein

25 said code detection area is determined based on an alignment error between said image pickup section and said code due to said guide section and a specification of said code.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said guide section allows part thereof as a guide

positioning section to touch a recording medium positioning section as part of said recording medium and determines a positional relationship between said image pickup section and the code.

5 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
 said guide section is a slit, and
 said data recording medium is shaped into a card,

10 and inserting said card-shaped data recording medium
 into said slit determines positional relationship
 between said image pickup section and the code.

15 4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
 said alignment error is determined by a contact
 error between a guide section and a recording medium in
 said guide positioning section.

20 5. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
 said alignment error is determined by an assembly
 error of said image pickup section against said guide
 positioning section.

25 6. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
 said alignment error is determined by a recording
 position error of said code against said recording
 medium positioning section.

25 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 said non-interference area is widened on one of
 upper side and lower side of said code, and
 said code detection section starts detection from
 the wider side of said non-interference area and

terminates detection when detecting part of the code.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said code comprises a plurality of blocks,
each of said blocks comprises an arrangement of
5 a data area containing data divided from said data,
a marker area containing a marker for identifying that
block, and a block ID area containing block ID
information for independently identifying that block,
according to a specified positional relationship,
10 at least part of said code detected in said code
detection section is said marker, and

said restoration section specifies said code from
said image pickup screen in units of blocks and
restores said divided data.

15 9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
said code is read by means of relative scanning
with reference to said image pickup section,
said non-interference area is narrowed in a
portion other than an edge used to start scanning said
20 code, and

said code detection section provides a narrower
code detection area used to detect the latter part of
the code than a code detection area used to detect the
beginning of the code during said scanning.

25 10. A code reader to read said code from a data
recording medium which records data as an optically
readable code, comprising:

an image pickup section to pick up a code;
an image detection section to detect a specified
image from an image pickup screen obtained in said
image pickup section, said specified image being
5 provided near said code on a data recording medium and
being positioned according to a specified positional
relationship with said code; and

10 a restoration section to specify said code from
said image pickup screen based on a detection position
of said specified image detected in said image
detection section and to restore data recorded in said
code.

15 11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
said specified image is part of an adjacent code.

12. A data recording medium comprising:
a portion where data is recorded as an optically
readable code; and

20 a non-interference area which is provided around
said code and prevents presence of only an interference
image having an attribute causing an error during
reading of said code, wherein

25 said recording medium stores said code read by
a code reader having an image pickup section to pick up
a code, a code detection section to set a code
detection area in an image pickup screen obtained in
said image pickup section and detect part of said code
from the inside thereof, a restoration section to

specify said code from said image pickup screen based
on a detection position of part of said code detected
in said code detection section and restore data
recorded in said code, and a guide section configured
5 to specify positional relationship between said image
pickup section and said code, and

 said non-interference area is determined based on
 said code detection area, an alignment error between
 said image pickup section and said code due to said
10 guide section, and a specification of said code.

13. The medium according to claim 12, wherein

 said data recording medium allows part thereof as
 a recording medium positioning section to touch a guide
 positioning section as part of said guide section and
15 determines positional relationship between said image
 pickup section and the code.

14. The medium according to claim 13, wherein

 said guide section is a slit, and

 said data recording medium is shaped into a card,
20 and inserting said card-shaped data recording medium
 into said slit determines positional relationship
 between said image pickup section and the code.

15. The medium according to claim 13, wherein

 said alignment error is determined by a contact
25 error between a recording medium and a guide section in
 said recording medium positioning section.

16. The medium according to claim 13, wherein

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said alignment error is determined by an assembly error of said image pickup section against said guide positioning section.

17. The medium according to claim 13, wherein
5 said alignment error is determined by a recording position error of said code against said recording medium positioning section.

18. The medium according to claim 12, wherein
10 a data recording medium is read by a code reader in which said code detection section starts detection processing from a specified position in said code detection area and terminates detection processing when detecting part of the code, and
15 said non-interference area is widened on one of upper side and lower side of said code for said code detection section to start detection.

19. The medium according to claim 12, wherein
20 said code comprises a plurality of blocks, and each of said blocks comprises an arrangement of a data area containing data divided from said data, a marker area containing a marker for identifying that block, and a block ID area containing block ID information for independently identifying that block, according to a specified positional relationship.

25 20. The medium according to claim 19, wherein
 said data recording medium is read by a code reader which reads said code by means of relative

scanning with reference to said image pickup section
and provides said code detection section with
a narrower code detection area used to detect
the latter part of the code than a code detection area
used to detect the beginning of the code during said
scanning, and

said non-interference area is narrowed in a
portion other than an edge used to start scanning said
code.

- 10 21. A data recording medium comprising:
 a portion where data is recorded as an optically
 readable code; and
 the other portion, wherein
 said recording medium stores said code read by
15 a code reader having an image pickup section to pick up
 a code, an image detection section to detect
 a specified image from an image pickup screen obtained
 in said image pickup section, and a restoration section
 to specify said code from said image pickup screen
20 based on a detection position of said specified image
 detected in said image detection section and to restore
 data recorded in said code, and
 said specified image is provided near said code on
 a data recording medium and is positioned according to
25 a specified positional relationship with said code.

22. The medium according to claim 21, wherein
 said specified image is part of an adjacent code.

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23. A card-shaped data recording medium comprising:

a portion which records visually readable images such as a character, symbol, figure, pattern, photo,
5 etc.; and

a portion which records data as an optically readable code along a given cut side, wherein

10 a non-interference area is provided around said code to inhibit presence of only an interference image, out of said visually readable images, having an attribute causing an error during reading of said code, and

15 said non-interference area contains a longer width between said code and said cut side than a width between said code and said visually readable image arranged adjacently to said code.

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